

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Use of Gas Masks by the Bulgarian Army

- For the first time, in the summer of 1955, the Bulgarian Army carried out maneuvers, using gas masks of Soviet manufacture. On 15 August 1955, troops were observed using these masks near the village of Izvorovo (N4218, E2519), Chirpan Okoliya. At least three rifle companies were observed on these maneuvers, armed with Soviet light machine guns (40mm.) and grenade launchers. The maneuvers lasted several days, and the troops complained about the difficulty of the maneuvers and particularly about the use of the gas masks. 25X1

Registration of Bulgarian Army Reserve

- A registration has been made of all officers "physically fit for duty", followed by a registration of non-commissioned officers and men of the Bulgarian Army. This registration began in November 1954 and continued through the spring of 1955. Each officer was required to fill out a form giving information on their past life and military history, and also regarding the status of their families and relations. This form was then checked by both civilian and military officials. To this form was added another questionnaire of 16 pages, which was filled out by the local Communist leader, and included a biography of the officer from the time he was twelve years of age. After both forms had been submitted, the officer was called before an Army official, a member of the State Security, and a local official of the Communist Party for questioning. If the officer successfully met all requirements, he was given his military reserve document.

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Bulgarian Air Fields

3. A military airfield is located approximately four kilometers south of Stara Zagora. This is a permanent airfield and is well maintained. In good weather, there are frequent flights of FALCONS from this field. Supplies are brought to the airfield by a railway spur which branches off from the Sofia-Stara Zagora railroad line, approximately three kilometers west of Stara Zagora.
4. A permanent military airfield is located two kilometers south of Bezmer (N4229, E2624), Yambol Okoliya. Another emergency airfield is located two kilometers north of the railway station of Yambol. A closely guarded airfield is located south of Cherna Gora (N4213, E2513), Chirpan Okoliya. Not much air activity was observed at this airfield.

Topographic Survey in Bulgaria

5. During the summer of 1955, officials of the Bulgarian Institute of Topography checked the location of all Geodetic monuments in Bulgaria, and placed a large number of new monuments. Specifically, on 12 August 1955, topographic teams surveyed the forest of Simeonovo.

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